INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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Action EUR

Info SS G SP SAH L H P USIA NSC INR CIA NSA AID DOD E

RR RUEHC
DE RUFHRO 1036 2361615 AUG 66
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUFNCR/AMEMBASSY PARIS
STATE GRNC
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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AUG 24

1. WE KNOW OF NOTHING WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE JANUARY DATE FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITALY. ON OTHER HAND FACT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE LONG AND DIFFICULT MIGHT ARGUE FOR BEGINNING IN DECEMBER. WE THINK IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN ONE SESSION, AND ALSO BELIVE FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT BY MAY 31 WOULD FAVOR ITALIAN SIDE MORE THAN US SIDE. ACCEPTING ITALIAN PROPOSAL OF DECEMBER WOULD NOT MAKE US APPEAR ANXIOUS, ONLY COOPERATIVE.

RSK

2. ROME WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE PLACE FOR MEETING. ON OTHER HAND STARTING IN WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE ADVANTAGE OF HELPING ALL US ELEMENTS TO ASSESS ITALIAN POSITION.

3. WE CAN READILY ACCOMMODATE OURSELVES TO WASHINGTON'S DECISIONS ON BOTH POINTS.

4. RE SANTINI VISIT, WE WILL TAKE SOUNDINGS ON HIS STATUS ASAP AND WIRE CONCLUSIONS. MEANWHILE HE IS ON LEAVE UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER.

EXEMPT MELOY
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